

FORWARD NEW RICHMOND
October 17, 2018
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken.

Members Present: Summer Seidenkranz, Heather McAbee, Mike Montello, Cathy Longtin, Karl Skoglund, Susan Lockwood, Paul Mayer, Rob Kreibich

Members Absent: Tom Mews

Others Present: Seth Hudson, Beth Thompson, Mike Darrow, Lori Brinkman

Mike Montello moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Heather McAbee, and carried.

Karl Skoglund moved to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting dated September 19, 2018, seconded by Cathy Longtin, and carried.

FAM (Familiarity) Tour

Seth Hudson gave an update on the FAM Tour. He explained there were three site consultants included in the tour and that it went very well. The overall consensus was that people were impressed with the quality of life and amenities in our region. The number one issue in the area is workforce development. The site consultants appreciated getting to meet one-on-one with several communities. It was recommended by one of the consultants to look at our Norwegian/German Heritage and focus on the European work ethic. There was discussion on needing to clarify initiatives and to clarify the differences between gold-shovel sites, shovel-ready sites, etc. There is a shortage of available existing buildings for purchase in this area. Seth hopes in the future more time can be spent in each community as part of the FAM Tour. One thing New Richmond specifically needs to market is being the “gateway to the Twin Cities” to set ourselves apart from other communities.

Momentum West will be following up with the site selectors to put out a follow-up packet.

City Land Purchase Application

Beth spoke about the current process when a business or individual wants to purchase land from the City and the need to formalize an application process for consistency. Beth presented a draft application. The group liked the application; however, there were several suggestions of modifications to the form: add the number of employees to the current business information; add the “value of proposed equipment”, break down the jobs created over a three-year period, and add the commitment letter from bank or financial information to the first page. It was also suggested to change the name of the form to from Land Purchase Application to “Project Summary”.

Cathy Longtin moved to adopt the Project Summary form with the changes outlined above, seconded by Rob Kreibich, and carried.

Meeting Schedule for November and December

Summer requested that the regular November meeting be replaced with one-on-one meetings (lunch or coffee) with each FNR member separately with Summer. Summer will then compile a list of members’ short- and long-term goals for the FNR group for 2019. There will be regular December FNR meeting.

Communications/Miscellaneous

- Susan Lockwood mentioned an upcoming “FoxConn” presentation at WITC and invited FNR members to attend.
- Mike Darrow mentioned the upcoming Knowles Avenue Corridor Study which will include traffic counts and will highlight suggestions on traffic flow and traffic calming measures.
- FNR members are reminded to send their lists of questions for local businesses to Lori.
- Beth Thompson and Mike Darrow stated there was a low turnout at the community listening session on housing needs. We need to look at short- and long-term housing solutions for New Richmond.
- Mike Darrow mentioned the community meeting for the proposed Kwik Trip will be held tomorrow at 5:00.
- Mike Darrow mentioned that there is a new Fundraising Policy in place for City groups.

Heather McAbee moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rob Kreibich, and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.